



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,  
MICHAEL KULSTAD  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**SIXTEEN BROADWAY THEATRES OPERATED BY SHUBERT  
AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the Shubert Organization, Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiaries, the Belasco Theatre Corp., and the Lyceum Theatre Corp. and its affiliate 239-247 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street Corp. (collectively "Shubert Organization"), the owners and operators of 16 landmarked Broadway theatres, have agreed, under the terms of two Consent Decrees with the Government, to make their theatres accessible to people with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (the "ADA"). The Shubert Organization has already made many of the renovations and, as required by the consent decree, most of the renovations are to be completed by the end of this year. The live-action theatres covered by the Consent Decrees are:

- the Ambassador, located at 219 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Barrymore, located at 243 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Belasco, located at 111 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street;

- the Booth, located at 225 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Broadhurst, located at 235 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Broadway, located at Broadway at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street;
- the Cort, located at 138 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Golden, located at 252 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Imperial, located at 235 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Longacre, located at 220 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Lyceum, located at 149 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Music Box, located at 239 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Plymouth, located at 236 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Royale, located at 242 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street;
- the Shubert, located at 225 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street; and
- the Winter Garden, located at 1634 Broadway.

Today, the Government filed, and settled through two Consent Decrees, two civil lawsuits brought against the Shubert Organization under the ADA. The Consent Decrees require the Shubert Organization to install accessible wheelchair and companion seating locations as well as aisle transfer seating. In order to comply with the ADA's requirement that people with disabilities be offered a choice of admission prices comparable to those for members of the general public, the Shubert Organization has agreed to sell tickets for a certain number of wheelchair seating locations on the orchestra level at balcony prices. Under the Consent Decrees, the Shubert Organization also has agreed to changes in its ticketing policy that will allow

persons with disabilities a full opportunity to obtain accessible seating. The Consent Decrees provide that fully accessible restrooms will be installed in 13 of the 16 theatres, and alternative restroom locations will be made available to patrons of the 3 theatres in which installation of an accessible restroom was not structurally feasible.

In addition, the Shubert Organization has agreed to provide accessible entrances, exits, interior routes, and service areas, such as telephones, drinking fountains, ticket windows and concessions. The Shubert Organization also will provide accessible signage directing patrons with disabilities to accessible routes and services areas. Finally, the Consent Decrees require the Shubert Organization to pay the Government \$50,000 and obligates the Shubert Organization to comply with the ADA in making any future alterations at the theatres.

Mr. COMEY stated: "The Broadway theatre district is part of America's cultural heritage and is visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists and New York City residents each year. The comprehensive corrective measures required by these Consent Decrees will ensure that people with disabilities will have an equal opportunity to experience the diverse and spectacular entertainment events offered in these landmarked theatres."

Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT W. SADOWSKI is in charge of the case.

03-224

###